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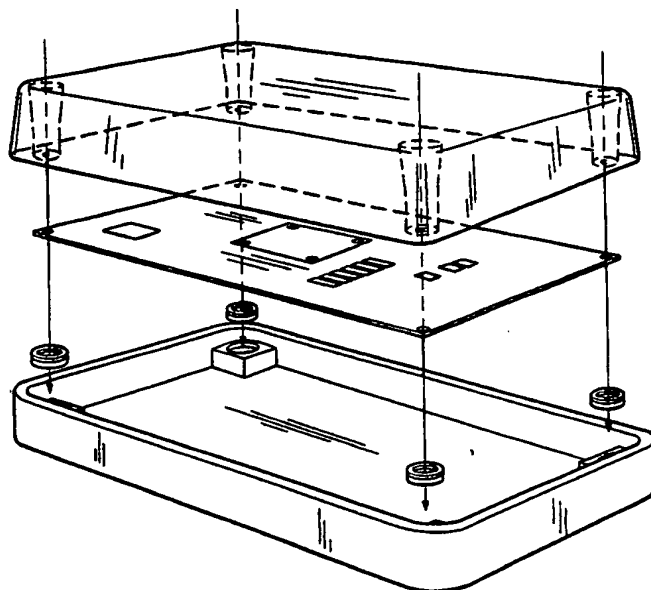
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(54) Title: **TAMPER PROOF CASE FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES HAVING MEMORIES WITH SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

(57) Abstract: A tamper-proof enclosure is disclosed. The enclosure utilizes various types of sensors that are capable of detecting chassis intrusion, extreme temperature variations and low battery power. A circuit is formed when the chassis is closed and broken when the chassis is opened. A sensor connected to the circuit detects a broken circuit. Other sensors detect unacceptable high or low temperatures and low battery power. When a sensor detects such a condition, it sends a signal causing a portion of the memory of the device contained within the enclosure to be erased.



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TITLE

**TAMPER PROOF CASE FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES
HAVING MEMORIES WITH SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

Field of the Invention

5 The invention relates to a tamper proof case for devices that have a memory containing sensitive information.

Background of the Invention

 There are many computer controlled devices which have memories containing sensitive information. Such information could range from financial
10 information to encryption keys, to passwords. Such devices may be in areas that are accessible to the public or which could be entered by anyone who wants the information. Consequently, there have been concerns about unauthorized access to the devices and retrieval of the sensitive information by a thief. Thus, there is a need for a tamper proof case which will prevent unauthorized access to sensitive information.

15 Several types of tamper proof enclosures have been developed. One type of enclosure contains a seal which is broken when the enclosure is opened. The seal will indicate whether a container has been opened but it does not prevent removal of sensitive

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information from the enclosure after opening. Another type of enclosure contains an alarm which sounds when the case or door is opened. While the alarms may promptly alert authorities of a breach, the sensitive information is still available to the thief when the enclosure is opened, provided he can quickly retrieve it and escape.

5 Erasable memories are well known. Where sensitive information is contained in a memory, one way to deter theft of information is to erase the memory whenever the thief or other unauthorized person seeks access. However, prior to the present invention, the art had not developed a tamper-proof case which would cause a memory to be erased when the case was opened.

10 Summary of the Invention

A system which determines the identity of individuals utilizing an iris scan device contains a cryptographic sub-system that encrypts digitized iris scans prior to transporting them to a remote facility for verification or matching with known samples. Information in encrypted form may also be received by the system. Such a system could
15 be used, for example, to positively identify individuals wishing to access an automated teller machine or to gain access to a restricted facility. Both encryption and decryption require the use and storage of encryption/decryption keys for extended periods of time. Because we do not want the encryption/decryption keys to be compromised, there is a requirement for physical key security.

20 A tamper-proof case is disclosed herein. If tampering is detected, the sensitive information, such as encryption/decryption keys, is deleted or zeroed out. Three forms of tampering are sensed: chassis intrusion, extreme temperature conditions and low battery power. The case may utilize one or more of several methods, described below, to detect tampering. The case itself consists of a metal enclosure having two or more parts
25 which are joined together to form the whole enclosure. The components of the device, including the circuitry which contains the sensitive information, reside within the enclosure.

The first method of detecting tampering consists of a conductive ring which must make simultaneous contact with a plurality of conductive portions, or traces, on the
30 printed circuit board. When two halves of the enclosure are separated, the conductive ring

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no longer makes contact with all of the conductive portions of the printed circuit board, and the tampering is detected.

The second method of detecting tampering is designed to protect all or part of a printed circuit board, specifically, a board or portion of a board containing memory chips storing sensitive information. This method utilizes a protective conductive mesh which encloses the circuit board. If the mesh is pierced, an open circuit condition is generated, and the tampering is detected. This prevents physical intrusion through the walls of the enclosure, such as by drilling or sawing.

A third method of preventing tampering involves the use of a temperature detector to detect extremes in temperature. This will defeat any attempts to "freeze" components of the device within the enclosure by lowering the temperature to a level where the devices will not work, thereby allowing time to access the components before the memory can be erased. If the temperature detector detects a temperature outside of a specific range of acceptable temperatures, the memory of the device is immediately erased.

Lastly, a device is utilized which detects a low battery condition. Ideally, in a loss of power situation, the device's internal batteries will provide power to the circuitry that protects the memory containing the sensitive information. Should these batteries run low, it would be possible to gain access to the sensitive information merely by removing power from the device. When a low battery condition is detected, the sensitive information in the memory device is erased.

Description of the Drawings

Figures 1a, 1b and 1c show various views of the conductive annulus used in the security switch.

Figure 2 is an exploded view of the tamper proof case with showing the placement of the security switches.

Figure 3 is a cutaway view of a corner of the bottom portion of the tamper-proof case showing a portion of the security switch.

Figure 4 shows the portion of the security switch in place on a printed circuit board.

Figures 5a and 5b show a frame used to protect specific areas of a printed circuit board.

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Figures 6a and 6b show a second embodiment of the frame of Figures 5a and 5b.

Figure 7 shows the frame of Figures 6a and 6b in dotted outline in place on a printed circuit board.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

The body of the case, in the preferred embodiment, consists of two halves, 14 and 16, best shown in Figure 2. These are preferably composed of a metal such as cast aluminum, but any hard material may be used, such as hard plastic. The two halves 14 and 16 of the case are fitted together to form the whole case. Inside the case is a main circuit board 18 which contains the circuitry of the device plus additional security monitoring circuitry. Several switches are implemented as part of the electrical traces of circuit board 18. In the preferred embodiment, these switches consist of an electrical trace shaped like an annulus divided into two or more segments. These are best shown in Figure 4 as reference numbers 22. Annular segmented contact 22 is printed around hole 23 in circuit board 18. All segments of annular contact 22 must make contact with a conductive ring 10 (external to the circuit board), shown in Figure 1, for the switch to be closed. Hole 23 in annular contact 22 is used for mounting the circuit board to the interior of the case as well as for providing the mounting constraints for conductive ring 10 used to close the switches.

20

One half 16 of the case contains one or more bosses 20 that permit one or more mounting screws to pass through the circuit board and thread into the other half of the casing 14, which has corresponding bosses 17 defined therein. Located at the top of one boss of each pair of bosses 20 and 17 is an annulus of resilient material 12, preferably composed of foam or sponge rubber, and which, in the preferred embodiment, is approximately .08 inches thick. Rubber annulus 12 has a contact adhesive applied to both sides. Each rubber annulus 12 is attached to the top of a boss 20 on one half 16 of the casing. The ring shape permits mounting screws to pass through the circuit board 18 and into boss 20. As shown in Figure 1, conductive washer 10 is attached to the other side of rubber annulus 12, thereby forming washer/annulus assembly 8. Circuit board 18 is then

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mounted on top of conductive washers 10, with the washers contacting circuit board 18 at the places where annular contacts 22 are printed.

All of the switches on the circuit board are connected in series by conductive traces 15. The switches are part of a monitoring circuit, which is electrically closed when all of conducting washers 10 join all segments of each annular contact 22. The segments of each annular contact 22 are joined when conductive washers 10 are compressed against the circuit board 18 by rubber annuli 12, mounted on bosses 20 on one half 16 of case when the two halves of the case 14 and 16 are secured to each other by the mounting screws (not shown). The normal operation of the system is such that each switch is closed, thus completing the circuit. If any switch is opened, by the removal of conductive washer 10 from annular contact 22, the circuit will open and the resulting absence of current will be detected by a sensor. A switch is opened when any attempt is made to separate the two halves 14 and 16 of the case. Such attempts will cause conductive washers 10 to pull away from the annular contacts 22 on circuit board 18, thereby opening the monitoring circuit.

The monitoring circuit is designed to detect an opening of one or more of the switches, which indicates an attempt to tamper with the contents of the case. When such a condition is detected, any important or sensitive data contained within the circuitry of circuit board 18, such as encryption keys on a cryptography module, are erased. The monitor circuit is powered by a battery located on circuit board 18. The presence of the battery ensures that protection of the sensitive data also exists if the system is powered down.

A key component of this switch arrangement is the mounting of conductive washers 10 for the switches. Each conductive washer 10 is bound to a rubber annulus 12 mounted on the cover bosses 20 via a contact adhesive, forming assembly 8. The thickness of each assembly 8 is greater than the clearance between the annular contacts 22 of on circuit board 18 and boss 20. This causes rubber annulus 12, which is resilient, to compress as the two halves 14 and 16 the case are secured together via mounting screws. The mounting screws which will extend through boss 17, defined in half of cover 14, circuit board 18 and annular contact 22, conductive washer 10, rubber annulus 12 and boss 20. The screws may be secured by nuts applied on the underside of boss 20, or may screw

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directly into threads defined in boss 20. As it compresses, rubber annulus 12 pushes conducting washer 10 onto annular contact 22 on circuit board 18, thereby keeping conductive washer 10 forced into contact with each segment of annular contact 22, completing the circuit. If either cover 14 or 16 is lifted or tilted in an effort to look into or
5 access the interior of the case, conductive washer 10 will lift from annular contact 22 and break the circuit, resulting in the deletion of the sensitive data. The more segments in annular contact 22, the more sensitive the switch is to tampering. For instance, by having eight segments, it is relatively difficult to tilt either half 14 or 16 of the case in any direction and keep conductive washer 10 touching all segments of annular contact 22.

10 This same technology can also be used to protect specific areas of the circuit board. For example, in Figures 5a and 5b, an aluminum frame is shown which fits around the portion of circuit board 18 housing the circuitry containing the sensitive data. In this case, two or more pairs of contacts 34, shown in Figure 7, are laid out on circuit board 18 surrounding the area which is to be protected. Resilient foam rubber gasket 26 of
15 the same shape as frame 24 holds frame 24 in place on circuit board 18, thereby connecting all of segments 34, when the halves 14 and 16 of the case are joined together. A boss on half 14 of the case, shaped similarly to frame 24 will compress resilient foam rubber gasket 26 and force frame 24 into contact with contacts 34. Any attempt to separate the halves 14 and 16 of the case causes frame 24 to pull away from circuit board 18,
20 breaking the contact with contacts 34 and opening the circuit. In an alternative embodiment, metal frame 24 could be replaced with a conductive foil tape 32, shown in Figure 6b, which is attached to a foam rubber frame 30 via a contact adhesive in the areas where foam rubber frame 30 touches contacts 34 on circuit board 18. Figure 7 shows foam rubber frame 30 in dotted outline in place on circuit board 18, with conductive foil patches
25 32 joining contacts 34 on circuit board 18.

Another method used to protect the portion of the circuit board containing the cryptography circuit is covering the circuitry with a conductive sheet or mesh (not shown). The sheet utilizes conductive traces (ink or metal for example) forming a grid pattern. The grid is connected in parallel to the edges of the sheet and connected to an
30 electrical supply forming another monitor circuit. If one or more of the traces in the grid are broken by any form of penetration, such as drilling or sawing, the circuit will be

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broken, resulting in the deletion of the sensitive data. An example of a conducting mesh suitable for use in this application is manufactured and sold by W. L. Gore & Associates, Ltd., under the trade name D³ Technology. The mesh would cover both sides of the circuit board to prevent access to the board by drilling or cutting of the case around the board.

5 During normal operations, normal operating power is supplied to circuit board 18. Should normal power be interrupted for any reason, be it an attempt to disable the unit by turning off its power supply, or a normal power outage, the circuitry in which the sensitive data is stored and the security monitor circuitry on circuit board 18 remains powered by an on-board battery. A sensor is located on circuit board 18 which detects
10 when the on-board battery runs low on power.

 Although any method may be used to delete the sensitive data from the memory of the particular device which has been placed into the tamper-proof case, the iris scan device described above utilizes a microcontroller which operates in zero-power "sleep" mode. The sensitive data in this case is one or more cryptography key, which are
15 stored in SRAM. Both the microcontroller and the SRAM can be powered utilizing battery power when normal power is unavailable. The occurrence of any security violation generates an interrupt to the microcontroller which, following a transition from zero-power (sleep mode) to low-power mode, destroys all keys via an erasure/overwrite by software of the SRAM chip. The time to transition from zero power to low power mode is
20 approximately on the order of microseconds, and the time to perform SRAM erasure/overwrite by software is a few milliseconds. Hence, the keys are erased well before anyone could successfully intrude into the security module.

 The low battery power detection feature ensures that the microcontroller has sufficient power to perform the destruction of the sensitive data upon detection of an
25 intrusion. Should the battery power drop below this threshold, the microcontroller will erase all sensitive data as a safeguard.

 The final safeguard is a temperature sensor that resides within the case. The temperature sensor is primarily designed to guard against the type of attack wherein someone would try to freeze the electronics of the device with liquid nitrogen to shut down
30 the security monitoring circuitry, thereby allowing the attacker to access the cryptography circuitry before the security monitoring circuitry could delete the sensitive data. The same

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would apply to a high temperature attack. Therefore, the temperature sensor is tuned to alert the microcontroller to delete the keys if the temperature is outside of a given range, which, in the preferred embodiment, is approximately 0c - 65c. In a normal operating environment, such as the inside of an ATM machine, a certain ambient temperature must
5 be maintained. The temperature range of the temperature sensor covers the expected range of operating temperatures in various normal operating situations.

In the preferred embodiment of the device, all of the described anti-attack measures will be present, however, the invention is not limited thereto, and may include embodiments that have a subset of the measures described. Furthermore, it should be
10 distinctly understood that our invention is not limited thereto but may be variously embodied within the scope of the following claims.

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I claim:

1. A tamper-proof case for a device having a memory containing information comprised of:

an enclosure having at least two mating parts which fit together to define an enclosed space, wherein said device having a memory containing information is disposed within said space;

at least two electrical contacts, positioned such that said contacts are electrically coupled, thereby forming a current path, when said first and said second mating parts are joined together and electrically uncoupled, thereby interrupting said current path, when said first and said second mating parts are separated; and

a sensor for sensing a flow of electrical current through said current path, said sensor being capable of sending a signal when said electrical contacts are uncoupled, said signal causing said device to erase at least a portion of said information from said memory.

2. The tamper-proof case of claim 1 wherein said at least two electrical contacts are traces on a printed circuit board.

3. The tamper proof case of claim 2 further comprising:

a piece of electrically conductive material; and

a piece of resilient material, secured to said piece of electrically conductive material and to one of said mating parts, and disposed therebetween;

such that said piece of electrically conductive material is biased by said piece of resilient material against said at least two electrical contacts, thereby electrically coupling said

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contacts, when said at least two mating parts are joined together.

4. The tamper-proof case of claim 3 wherein said piece of resilient material is foam rubber.

5. The tamper-proof case of claim 4 wherein:

5 said printed circuit board defines a hole therein; said at least two electrical contacts are laid out as a circle on a printed circuit board around said hole; and
said piece of electrically conductive material is a metal annulus sized to match said circle defined by said at least two electrical
10 contacts.

6. The tamper proof case of claim 5 further comprising:

a first boss, defined in one of said at least two mating parts, said boss defining a hole therein;
wherein said foam rubber is annular in shape and disposed between
15 said metal washer and said first boss.

7. The tamper proof case of claim 6 further comprising:

a second boss, defined in the other of said at least two mating parts, said second boss defining a hole therein, wherein said first and said second bosses are aligned when said at least two mating parts are
20 joined together; and
a screw, disposed through said hole in said first boss, said hole in said printed circuit board, said hole in said metal annulus, said hole in said foam rubber annulus and said hole defined in said second boss, such that when said screw is tightened, said at least two
25 mating parts are joined together and said foam rubber annulus is compressed, thereby biasing said metal annulus against said at least two electrical contacts defined as traces on said printed circuit

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board, and electrically coupling said electrical contacts and forming a switch which is electrically closed when said at least two mating parts are joined and electrically opened when said at least two mating parts are separated.

5 8. The tamper proof case of claim 7 further comprising a plurality of said switches.

9. The tamper-proof case of claim 4 wherein:
 said piece of electrically conductive material is a piece of metal tape bonded to said piece of foam rubber; and
10 said piece of foam rubber is bonded to one of said at least two mating parts, such that when said at least two mating parts are joined together, said foam rubber biases said metal tape against said electrical contacts, thereby electrically coupling said electrical contacts.

15 10. The tamper-proof case of claim 1 further comprising:
 an electrically conductive mesh disposed within said case such that at least said portion of said device containing said memory is covered by said mesh; and
 a sensor for detecting if said mesh has been pierced, said sensor being
20 capable of sending a signal when said mesh has been pierced, said signal causing said device to erase at least a portion of said information from said memory.

11. The tamper-proof case of claim 1 further comprising:
 a temperature sensor for determining the ambient temperature
25 within said case, wherein said temperature sensor generates a signal if said ambient temperature exceeds a predetermined maximum temperature or if said ambient temperature drops below a predetermined minimum temperature, said signal causing said

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device to erase at least a portion of said information from said memory.

12. The tamper-proof case of claim 11 wherein said maximum temperature is 65 degrees centigrade and wherein said minimum temperature is 0 degrees centigrade.

5 13. The tamper-proof case of claim 1 further comprising:
an internal battery capable of delivering a voltage; and
a sensor for detecting when said voltage drops below a certain
predetermined minimum voltage, said sensor being capable of
sending a signal when said voltage drops below said predetermined
10 minimum, said signal causing said device to erase at least a portion
of said information from said memory.

14. A tamper-proof case for a device having a memory containing information
comprised of:

15 an enclosure having at least two mating parts which fit together to
define an enclosed space, wherein said device having a memory
containing information is disposed within said space;
a first electrical contact on a first mating part of the at least two
mating parts, a second electrical contact on a second mating part,
the second electrical contact positioned to engage the first electrical
20 contact when the first mating part and the second mating part are
joined together;
a power source connected to said first electrical contact such that an
electrical circuit is formed when the first and second mating parts
are joined together;
25 a sensor in the electrical circuit which senses flow of electrical
current through the circuit and sends a signal when such electrical
current is interrupted which signal causes the device to erase at least
some information from the memory.

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15. The tamper-proof case of claim 1 also comprising:
a mesh adjacent at least one of the enclosure, the mesh having
conductive traces connected to the power source to form a circuit so
that electricity flows through the conductive traces;
5 a sensor connected to the conductive traces which senses flow of
electrical current through the circuit and sends a signal when such
electrical current is interrupted which signal causes the device to
erase at least some information from the memory.
16. The tamper-proof case of claim 15 wherein the mesh is adjacent all inside
10 surfaces of the enclosure.
17. The tamper-proof case of claim 14 also comprising a circuit board attached
to the first mating part, the circuit board containing the first electrical contact and a
conductive trace connected to the first electrical contact, the power supply and the sensors,
the conductive trace having a gap sized and positioned to mate with the second electrical
15 contact and thereby complete an electrical circuit.
18. The tamper proof case of claim 14 comprising a resilient washer connected
to the second mating port and carrying the second electrical circuit.
19. The tamper proof case of claim 18 wherein the second electrical contact is
annular.
- 20 20. The tamper proof case of claim 19 wherein the second electrical contact is
segmented and the first electrical contact is segmented such that the segments of the first
electrical contact are sized and positioned to meet and engage the segments of the second
electrical contact to complete the electrical current when the first and second mating parts
are joined.
- 25 21. The tamper proof case of claim 20 wherein the second electrical contact has
eight segments.

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22. The tamper proof case of claim 14 also comprising a temperature sensor within the enclosure, the temperature sensor designed to emit a signal when temperature within the enclosure falls below a preselected minimum temperature.

23. The tamper proof case of claim 14 also comprising a battery and a battery power detector connected to the battery, the battery and battery power detector connected to the battery, the battery and battery power detector being within the enclosure and wherein the battery power detector sends a signal when the battery reaches a power level below a predetermined power level, this signal causing the device to erase at least some information from the memory.

10 24. The tamperproof case of claim 14 wherein the memory contains encryption keys which are erased when a signal is sent by the sensor.

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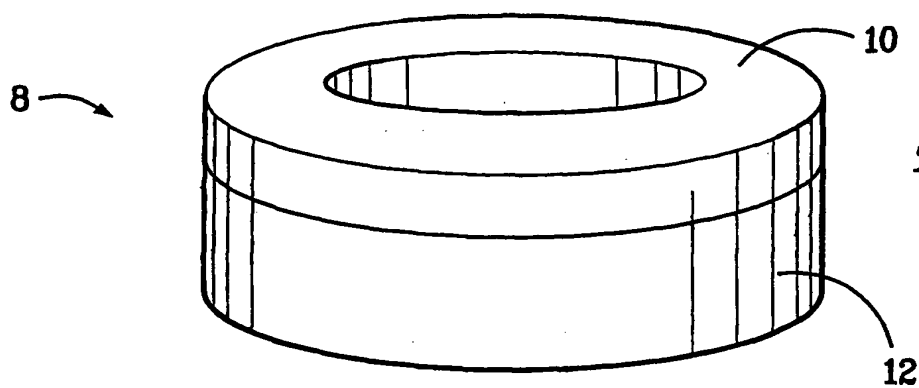


FIG. 1A

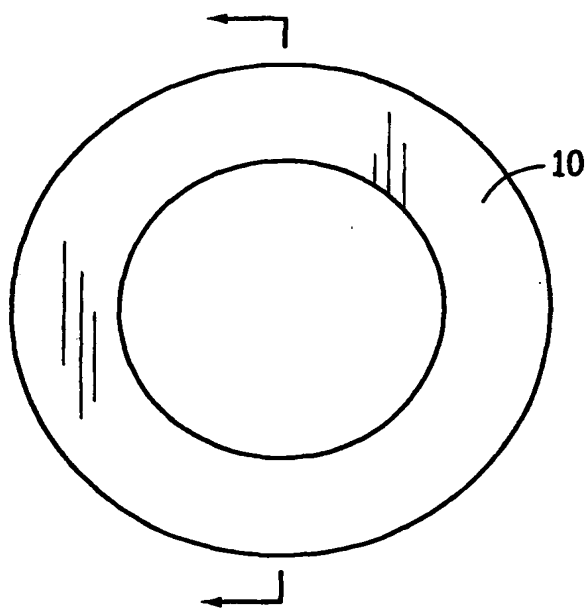


FIG. 1B

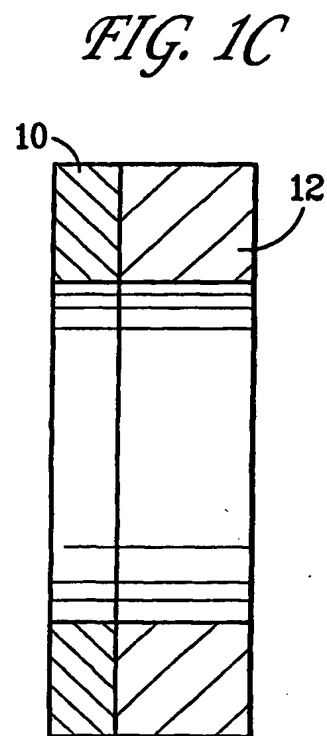
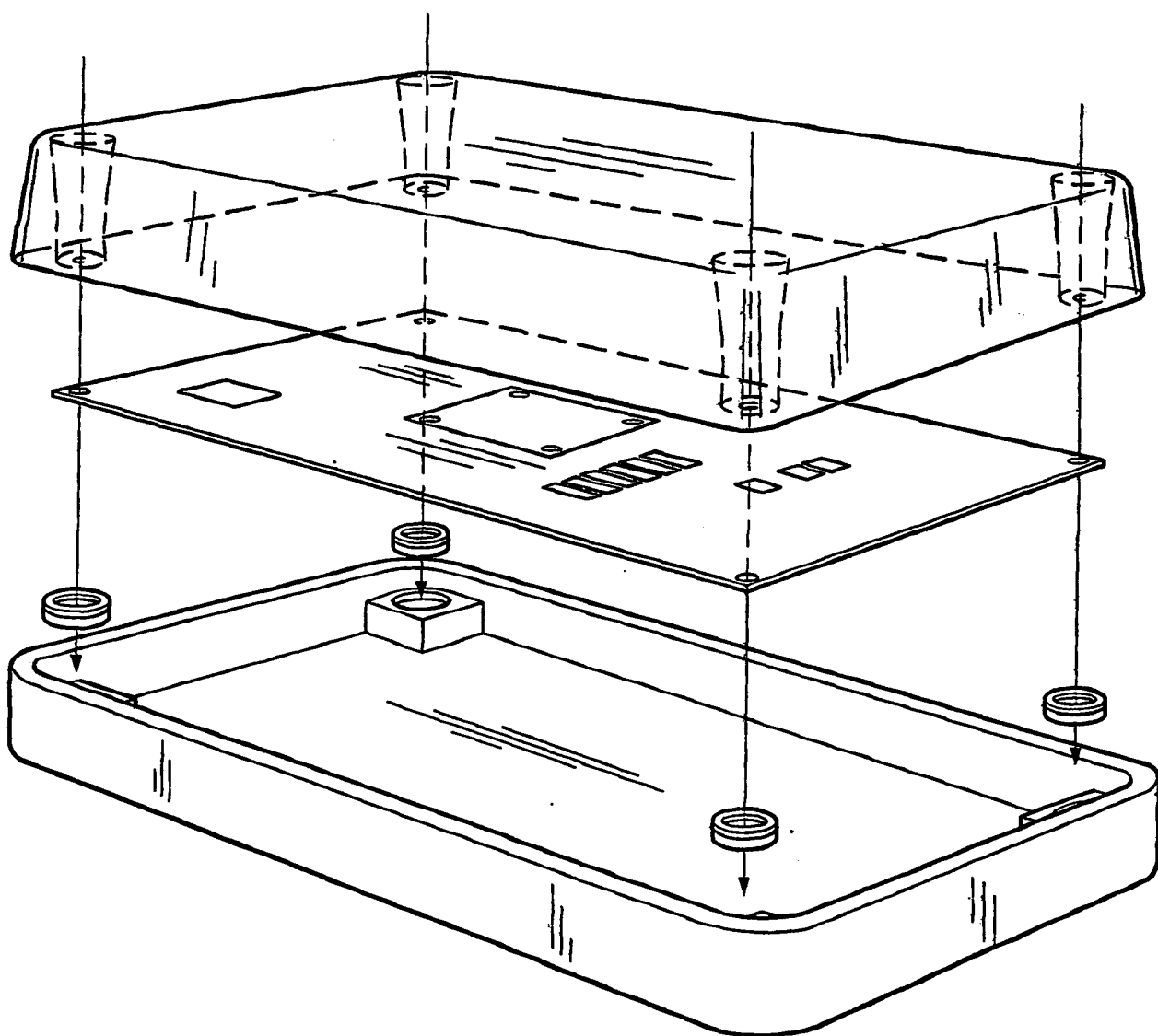


FIG. 1C

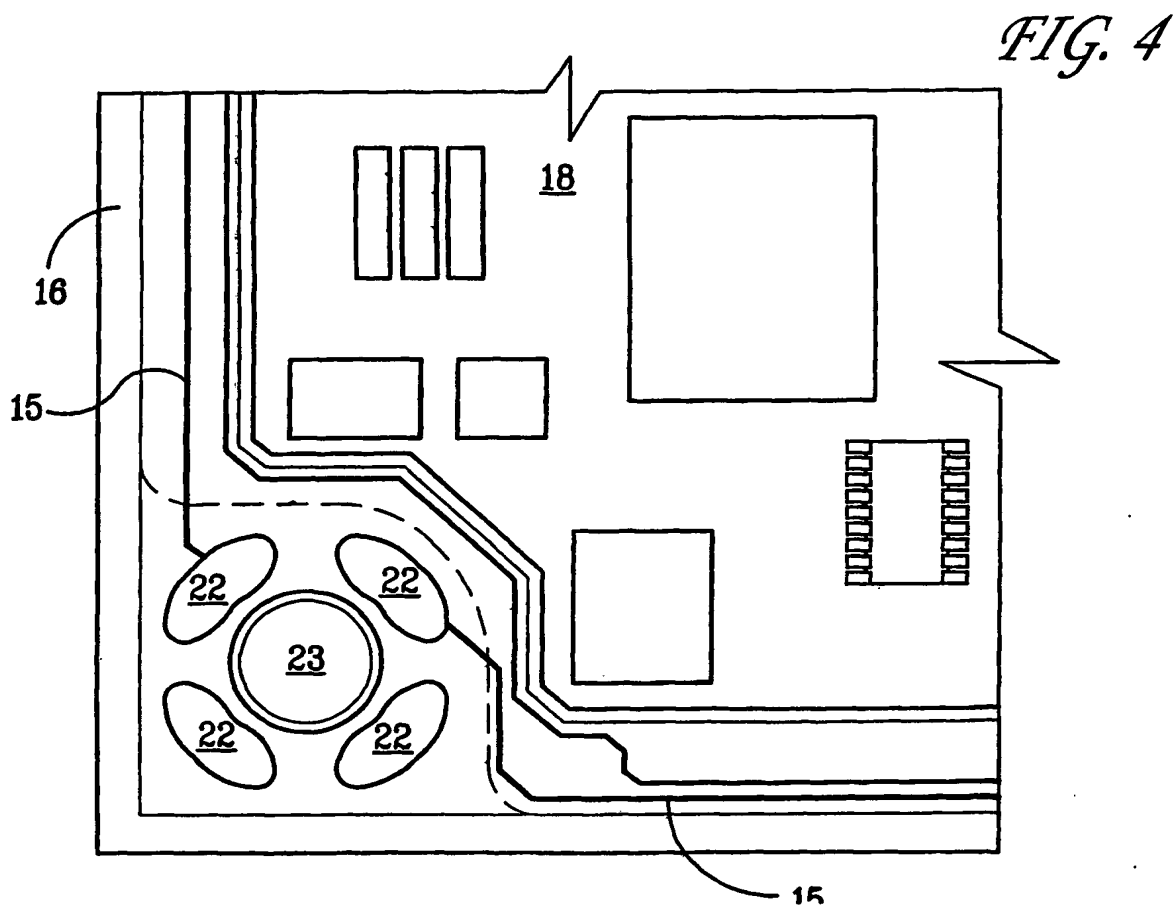
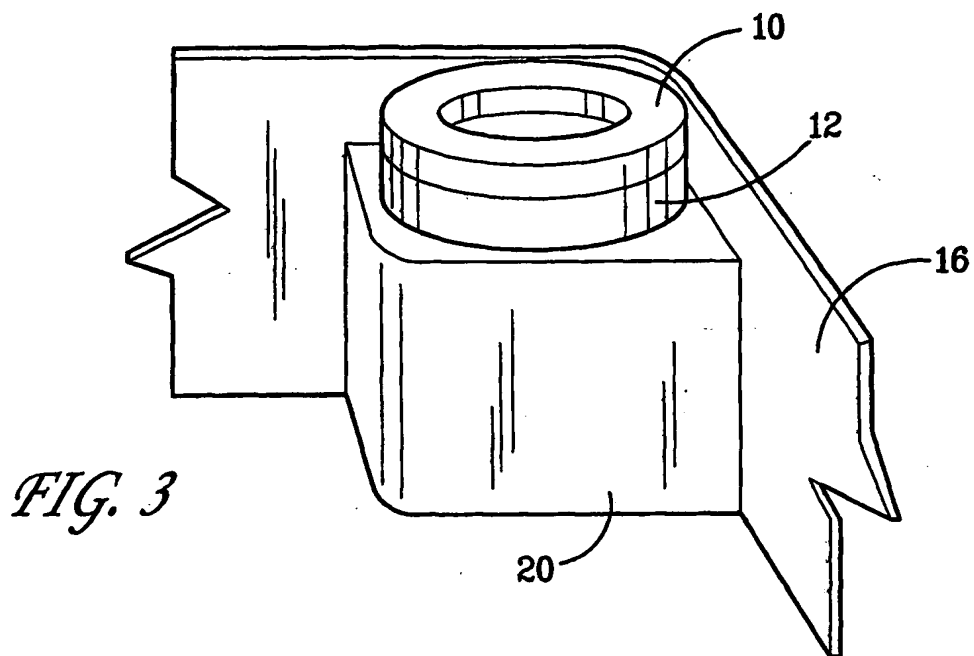
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FIG. 2



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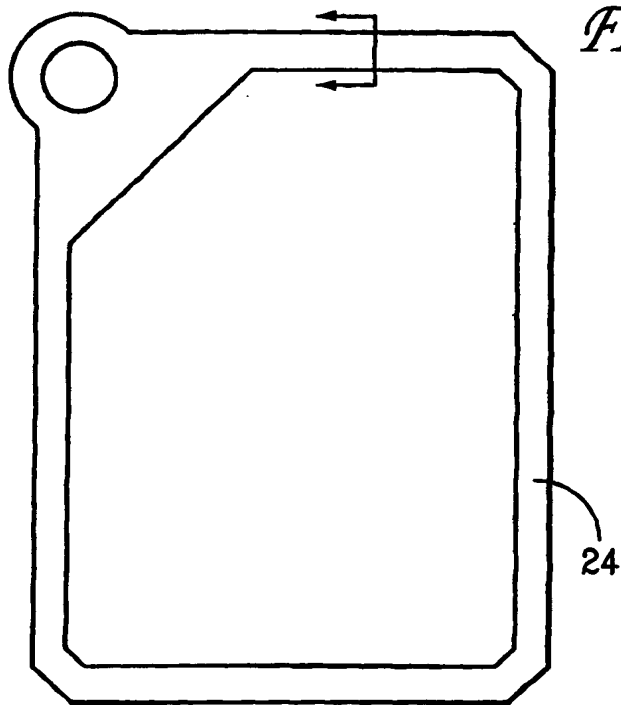


FIG. 5A

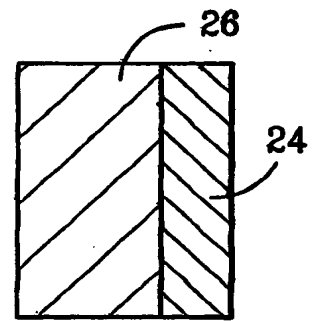


FIG. 5B

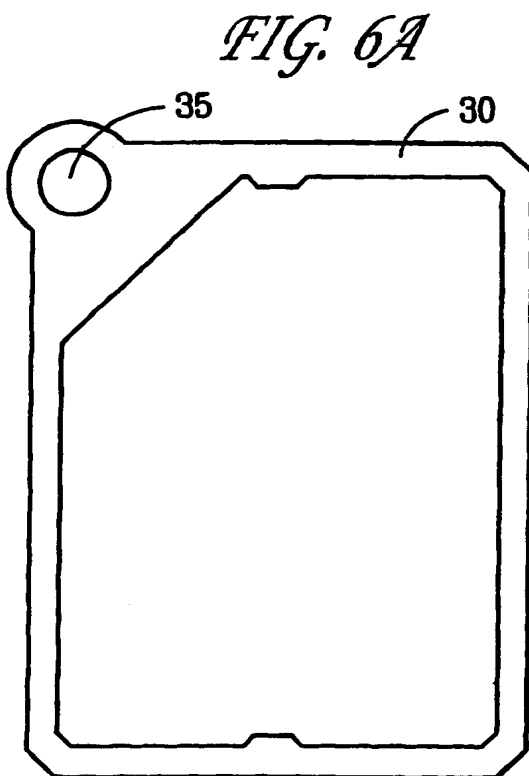


FIG. 6A

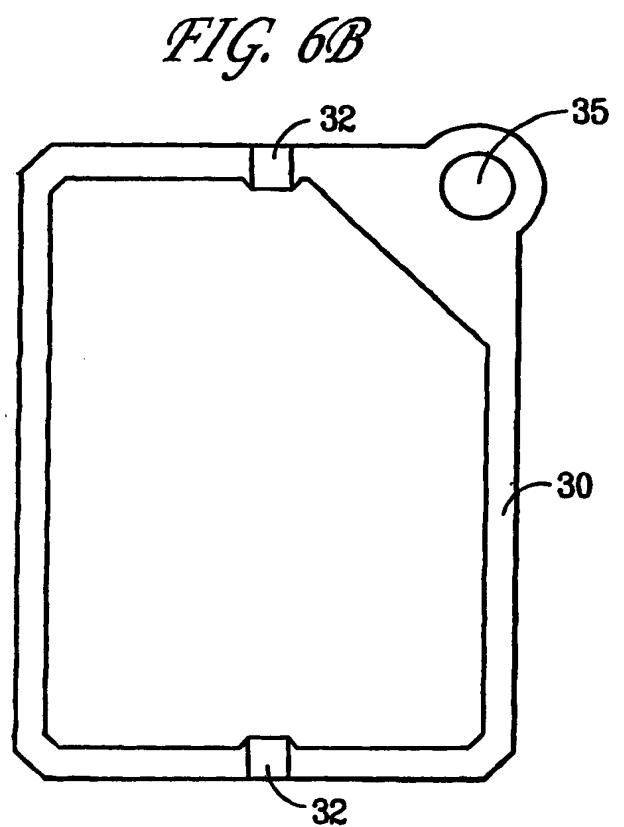
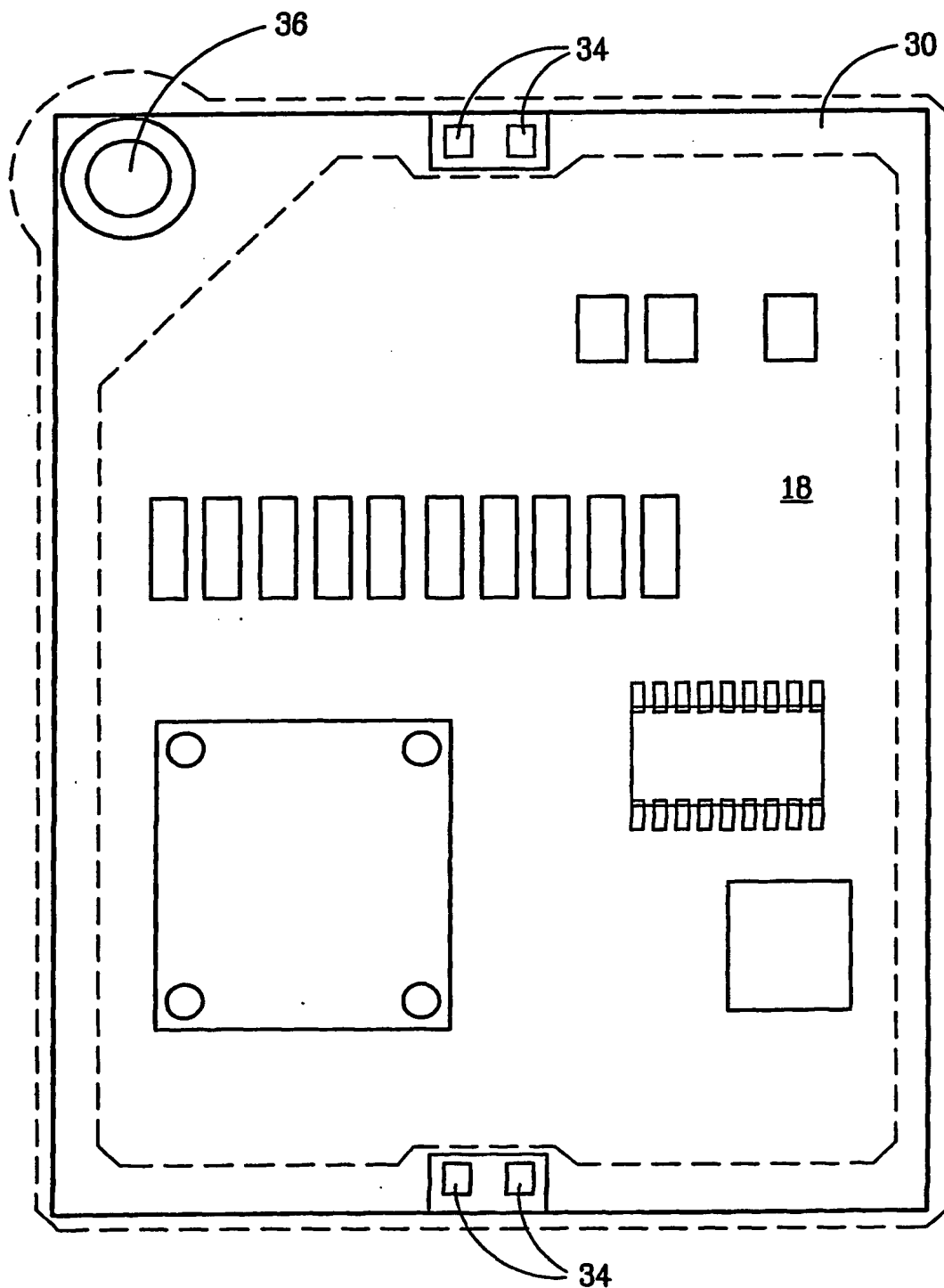


FIG. 6B

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FIG. 7

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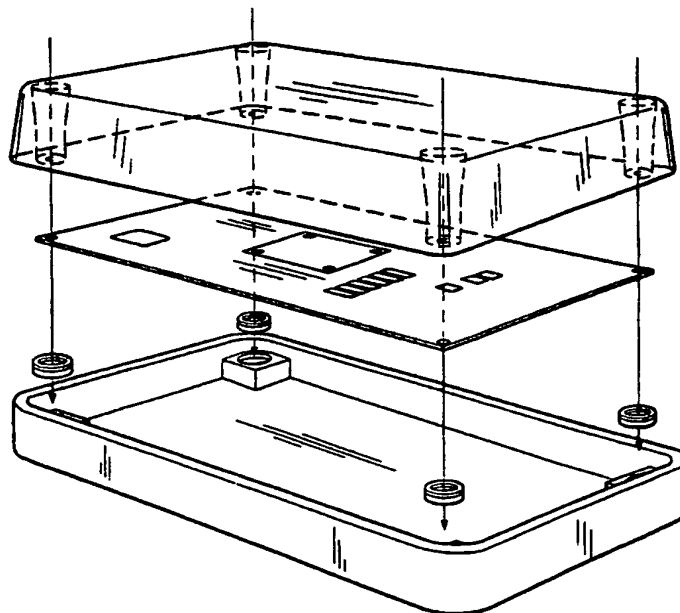
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 195 12 266 A (JACOB RAINER) 28 March 1996 (1996-03-28) column 2, line 51 -column 3, line 8; figure 2 ---	1, 2, 10, 11, 13-17, 22, 23
X Y A	WO 88 08176 A (IDO AG) 20 October 1988 (1988-10-20) page 4, paragraph 2; figures 3, 4 ---	1, 2, 14 3, 18, 19 4-13, 15-17, 20-24
Y A	EP 0 540 376 A (SAGEM) 5 May 1993 (1993-05-05) column 2, line 37 -column 3, line 29; figure 1 ---	3, 18, 19 1, 2, 4-24
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	column 5, line 8 - line 17; figures	2-13, 15-24
A	----- EP 0 860 881 A (GEN INSTRUMENT CORP) 26 August 1998 (1998-08-26) column 4, line 3 - line 14 -----	1-24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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(54) Title: **PLATFORM AND METHOD FOR REMOTE ATTESTATION OF A PLATFORM**

(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, a method of remote attestation for a special mode of operation. The method comprises storing an audit log within protected memory of a platform. The audit log is a listing of data representing each of a plurality of IsoX software modules loaded into the platform. The audit log is retrieved from the protected memory in response to receiving a remote attestation request from a remotely located platform. Then, the retrieved audit log is digitally signed to produce a digital signature for transfer to the remotely located platform.

WO 01/75564 A2

PLATFORM AND METHOD FOR REMOTE ATTESTATION
OF A PLATFORM

BACKGROUND

1. **Field**

This invention relates to the field of platform security.

2. **Background**

Advances in microprocessor and communication technologies with a platform have opened up many opportunities for applications that go beyond the traditional ways of doing business. Electronic commerce (e-commerce) and business-to-business (B2B) transactions are now becoming popular, reaching the global markets at a fast rate. Unfortunately, while modern microprocessor technology provides users with convenient and efficient methods of doing business, communicating and transacting, this technology fails to support remote attestation. Remote attestation is a technique for ascertaining the operating state of a remotely located platform in a generally secure manner. By ascertaining the operating state of the platform prior to conducting e-commerce or B2B transactions with that platform, the user is imparted with greater confidence in the security of the transaction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention in which:

Figure 1A is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of the logical operating architecture for the IsoX™ architecture of the platform.

Figure 1B is an illustrative diagram showing the accessibility of various elements in the operating system and the processor according to one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 1C is a first block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a platform utilizing the present invention.

Figure 2 is a flowchart of the illustrative operations of the platform to generate an embodiment of the protected audit log.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a remote attestation unit employed in the processor of Figure 1C to obtain a protected copy of the audit log.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a remote attestation unit employed in the chipset of Figure 1C to obtain a protected copy of the audit log external to the chipset.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a remote attestation unit employed in the chipset of Figure 1C to obtain a protected copy of the audit log internal to the chipset.

Figure 6 is a block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a remote attestation unit employed in the fixed token of Figure 1C to obtain a protected copy of the audit log.

Figure 7 is a block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a remote attestation unit employed in the removable token of Figure 1C to obtain a protected copy of the audit log.

DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to a platform and method for remote attestation of a platform. Remote attestation may be conducted when the platform is operating in a special mode of operation. An example of this special mode includes a processor isolated execution "IsoX" mode as described below. More specifically, a processor executing in IsoX mode utilizes hardware-protected keying material that is cryptographically unique to produce a digital signature that includes information concerning the operating environment of the platform. The hardware that provides protection of the keying material, referred to herein as a "remote attestation unit" (RAU),

may be integrated in a core logic device (e.g., a processor or a chipset component) or a non-core logic device (e.g., token).

In the following description, certain terminology is used to discuss features of the present invention. For example, a "platform" includes components that perform different functions on stored information. Examples of a platform include, but are not limited or restricted to a computer (e.g., desktop, a laptop, a hand-held, a server, a workstation, etc.), desktop office equipment (e.g., printer, scanner, a facsimile machine, etc.), a wireless telephone handset, a television set-top box, and the like. Examples of a "component" include hardware (e.g., an integrated circuit, etc.) and/or one or more software modules. A "software module" is code that, when executed, performs a certain function. This code may include an operating system, an application, an applet or even a nub being a series of code instructions, possibly a subset of code from an applet. A "link" is broadly defined as one or more information-carrying mediums (e.g., electrical wire, optical fiber, cable, bus, or air in combination with wireless signaling technology) to establish a communication pathway. This pathway is deemed "protected" when it is virtually impossible to modify information routed over the pathway without detection.

In addition, the term "information" is defined as one or more bits of data, address, and/or control and a "segment" is one or more bytes of information. A "message" is a grouping of information, possibly packetized information. "Keying material" includes any information needed for a specific cryptographic algorithm such as a Digital Signature Algorithm. A "one-way function" is a function, mathematical or otherwise, that converts information from a variable-length to a fixed-length (referred to as a "hash value" or "digest"). The term "one-way" indicates that there does not readily exist an inverse function to recover any discernible portion of the original information from the fixed-length hash value. Examples of a hash function include MD5 provided by RSA Data Security of Redwood City, California, or Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) as specified in a 1995 publication Secure Hash Standard FIPS 180-1 entitled "Federal Information Processing Standards Publication" (April 17, 1995).

I. Architecture Overview

In one embodiment, a platform utilizing the present invention may be configured with an isolated execution (IsoX™) architecture. The IsoX™ architecture includes logical and physical definitions of hardware and software components that interact directly or indirectly with an operating system of the platform. Herein, the operating system and a processor of the platform may have several levels of hierarchy, referred to as rings, which correspond to various operational modes. A "ring" is a logical division of hardware and software components that are designed to perform dedicated tasks within the platform. The division is typically based on the degree or level of privilege, namely the ability to make changes to the platform. For example, a ring-0 is the innermost ring, being at the highest level of the hierarchy. Ring-0 encompasses the most critical, privileged components. Ring-3 is the outermost ring, being at the lowest level of the hierarchy. Ring-3 typically encompasses user level applications, which are normally given the lowest level of privilege. Ring-1 and ring-2 represent the intermediate rings with decreasing levels of privilege.

Figure 1A is a diagram illustrating an embodiment of a logical operating architecture 50 of the IsoX™ architecture. The logical operating architecture 50 is an abstraction of the components of the operating system and processor. The logical operating architecture 50 includes ring-0 10, ring-1 20, ring-2 30, ring-3 40, and a processor nub loader 52. Each ring in the logical operating architecture 50 can operate in either (i) a normal execution mode or (ii) an IsoX mode. The processor nub loader 52 is an instance of a processor executive (PE) handler.

Ring-0 10 includes two portions: a normal execution Ring-0 11 and an isolated execution Ring-0 15. The normal execution Ring-0 11 includes software modules that are critical for the operating system, usually referred to as the "kernel". These software modules include a primary operating system 12 (e.g., kernel), software drivers 13, and hardware drivers 14. The isolated execution Ring-0 15 includes an operating system (OS) nub 16 and a processor nub 18 as described below. The OS nub 16 and the processor nub 18 are instances of an OS executive (OSE) and processor executive (PE), respectively. The OSE and the PE are part of executive entities that operate in a

protected environment associated with the isolated area 70 and the IsoX mode. The processor nub loader 52 is a bootstrap loader code that is responsible for loading the processor nub 18 from the processor or chipset into an isolated area as will be explained later.

Similarly, ring-1 20, ring-2 30, and ring-3 40 include normal execution ring-1 21, ring-2 31, ring-3 41, and isolated execution ring-1 25, ring-2 35, and ring-3 45, respectively. In particular, normal execution ring-3 includes N applications 42_1-42_N and isolated execution ring-3 includes M applets 46_1-46_M (where "N" and "M" are positive whole numbers).

One concept of the IsoX™ architecture is the creation of an isolated region in the system memory, which is protected by components of the platform (e.g., the processor and chipset). This isolated region, referred to herein as an "isolated area," may also be in cache memory that is protected by a translation look aside (TLB) access check. Access to this isolated area is permitted only from a front side bus (FSB) of the processor, using special bus cycles (referred to as "isolated read and write cycles") issued by the processor executing in IsoX mode.

It is contemplated that links dedicated to solely support special cycles during remote attestation (referred to as "attestation cycles") may be employed within the platform. These attestation cycles may be based on the isolated read and write cycles or may be independent from the isolated read and write cycles. In lieu of dedicated links, shared links may be employed within the platform to support remote attestation. Examples of these shared links include a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus, an accelerated graphics port (AGP) bus, an Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus, a Universal Serial Bus (USB) bus and the like. The attestation cycles are issued to prove locality, namely that a device with the keying material and a signing engine is accessing information (e.g., an audit log) stored in protected memory within the platform. This mitigates the threat of software simulating the retrieval of the audit log for example.

The IsoX mode is initialized using a privileged instruction in the processor, combined with the processor nub loader 52. The processor nub loader 52 verifies and

loads a ring-0 nub software module (e.g., processor nub 18) into the isolated area. For security purposes, the processor nub loader 52 is non-modifiable, tamper-resistant and non-substitutable. In one embodiment, the processor nub loader 52 is implemented in read only memory (ROM).

One task of the processor nub 18 is to verify and load the ring-0 OS nub 16 into the isolated area. The OS nub 16 provides links to services in the primary operating system 12 (e.g., the unprotected segments of the operating system), provides page management within the isolated area, and has the responsibility for loading ring-3 application modules 45, including applets 46₁ to 46_M, into protected pages allocated in the isolated area. The OS nub 16 may also support paging of data between the isolated area and ordinary (e.g., non-isolated) memory. If so, then the OS nub 16 is also responsible for the integrity and confidentiality of the isolated area pages before evicting the page to the ordinary memory, and for checking the page contents upon restoration of the page.

Referring now to Figure 1B, a diagram of the illustrative elements associated with the operating system 10 and the processor for one embodiment of the invention is shown. For illustration purposes, only elements of ring-0 10 and ring-3 40 are shown. The various elements in the logical operating architecture 50 access an accessible physical memory 60 according to their ring hierarchy and the execution mode.

The accessible physical memory 60 includes an isolated area 70 and a non-isolated area 80. The isolated area 70 includes applet pages 72 and nub pages 74. The non-isolated area 80 includes application pages 82 and operating system pages 84. The isolated area 70 is accessible only to components of the operating system and processor operating in the IsoX mode. The non-isolated area 80 is accessible to all elements of the ring-0 operating system and processor.

The normal execution ring-0 11 including the primary OS 12, the software drivers 13, and the hardware drivers 14, can access both the OS pages 84 and the application pages 82. The normal execution ring-3, including applications 42₁ to 42_N, can access

only to the application pages 82. Both the normal execution ring-0 11 and ring-3 41, however, cannot access the isolated area 70.

The isolated execution ring-0 15, including the OS nub 16 and the processor nub 18, can access to both of the isolated area 70, including the applet pages 72 and the nub pages 74, and the non-isolated area 80, including the application pages 82 and the OS pages 84. The isolated execution ring-3 45, including applets 46₁ to 46_M, can access only to the application pages 82 and the applet pages 72. The applets 46₁ to 46_M reside in the isolated area 70.

Referring to Figure 1C, a block diagram of an illustrative embodiment of a platform utilizing the present invention is shown. In this embodiment, platform 100 comprises a processor 110, a chipset 120, a system memory 140 and peripheral components (e.g., tokens 180/182 coupled to a token link 185 and/or a token reader 190) in communication with each other. It is further contemplated that the platform 100 may contain optional components such as a non-volatile memory (e.g., flash) 160 and additional peripheral components. Examples of these additional peripheral components include, but are not limited or restricted to a mass storage device 170 and one or more input/output (I/O) devices 175. For clarity, the specific links for these peripheral components (e.g., PCI bus, AGP bus, ISA bus, USB bus, wireless transmitter/receiver combinations, etc.) are not shown.

In general, the processor 110 represents a central processing unit of any type of architecture, such as complex instruction set computers (CISC), reduced instruction set computers (RISC), very long instruction word (VLIW), or hybrid architecture. In one embodiment, the processor 110 includes multiple logical processors. A "logical processor," sometimes referred to as a thread, is a functional unit within a physical processor having an architectural state and physical resources allocated according to a specific partitioning functionality. Thus, a multi-threaded processor includes multiple logical processors. The processor 110 is compatible with the Intel Architecture (IA) processor, such as a PENTIUM® series, the IA-32™ and IA-64™. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the basic description and operation of the processor 110 applies to either a single processor platform or a multi-processor platform.

The processor 110 may operate in a normal execution mode or an IsoX mode. In particular, an isolated execution circuit 115 provides a mechanism to allow the processor 110 to operate in an IsoX mode. The isolated execution circuit 115 provides hardware and software support for the IsoX mode. This support includes configuration for isolated execution, definition of the isolated area, definition (e.g., decoding and execution) of isolated instructions, generation of isolated access bus cycles, and generation of isolated mode interrupts. In one embodiment, as shown in Figure 3, the RAU may be implemented as part of the processor 110.

As shown in Figure 1C, a host link 116 is a front side bus that provides interface signals to allow the processor 110 to communicate with other processors or the chipset 120. In addition to normal mode, the host link 116 supports an isolated access link mode with corresponding interface signals for isolated read and write cycles when the processor 110 is configured in the IsoX mode. The isolated access link mode is asserted on memory accesses initiated while the processor 110 is in the IsoX mode if the physical address falls within the isolated area address range. The isolated access link mode is also asserted on instruction pre-fetch and cache write-back cycles if the address is within the isolated area address range. The processor 110 responds to snoop cycles to a cached address within the isolated area address range if the isolated access bus cycle is asserted.

Herein, the chipset 120 includes a memory control hub (MCH) 130 and an input/output control hub (ICH) 150 described below. The MCH 130 and the ICH 150 may be integrated into the same chip or placed in separate chips operating together. In another embodiment, as shown in Figure 4, the RAU may be implemented as part of the chipset 120.

With respect to the chipset 120, a MCH 130 provides control and configuration of memory and input/output devices such as the system memory 140 and the ICH 150. The MCH 130 provides interface circuits to recognize and service attestation cycles and/or isolated memory read and write cycles. In addition, the MCH 130 has memory range registers (e.g., base and length registers) to represent the isolated area in the system memory 140. Once configured, the MCH 130 aborts any access to the isolated area when the isolated access link mode is not asserted.

The system memory 140 stores code and data. The system memory 140 is typically implemented with dynamic random access memory (DRAM) or static random access memory (SRAM). The system memory 140 includes the accessible physical memory 60 (shown in Figure 1B). The accessible physical memory 60 includes the isolated area 70 and the non-isolated area 80 as shown in Figure 1B. The isolated area 70 is the memory area that is defined by the processor 110 when operating in the IsoX mode. Access to the isolated area 70 is restricted and is enforced by the processor 110 and/or the chipset 120 that integrates the isolated area functionality. The non-isolated area 80 includes a loaded operating system (OS). The loaded OS 142 is the portion of the operating system that is typically loaded from the mass storage device 170 via some boot code in a boot storage such as a boot read only memory (ROM). Of course, the system memory 140 may also include other programs or data which are not shown.

As shown in Figure 1C, the ICH 150 supports isolated execution in addition to traditional I/O functions. In this embodiment, the ICH 150 comprises at least the processor nub loader 52 (shown in Figure 1A), a hardware-protected memory 152, an isolated execution logical processing manager 154, and a token link interface 158. For clarity, only one ICH 150 is shown although platform 100 may be implemented with multiple ICHs. When there are multiple ICHs, a designated ICH is selected to control the isolated area configuration and status. This selection may be performed by an external strapping pin. As is known by one skilled in the art, other methods of selecting can be used.

The processor nub loader 52, as shown in Figures 1A and 1C, includes a processor nub loader code and its hash value (or digest). After being invoked by execution of an appropriated isolated instruction (e.g., ISO_INIT) by the processor 110, the processor nub loader 52 is transferred to the isolated area 70. Thereafter, the processor nub loader 52 copies the processor nub 18 from the non-volatile memory 160 into the isolated area 70, verifies and places a representation of the processor nub 18 (e.g., a hash value) into the protected memory 152. Herein, the protected memory 152 is implemented as a memory array with single write, multiple read capability. This non-modifiable capability is controlled by logic or is part of the inherent nature of the

memory itself. For example, as shown, the protected memory 152 may include a plurality of single write, multiple read registers.

As shown in Figures 1C and 2, the protected memory 152 is configured to support an audit log 156. An "audit log" 156 is information concerning the operating environment of the platform 100; namely, a listing of data that represents what information has been successfully loaded into the system memory 140 after power-on of the platform 100. For example, the representative data may be hash values of each software module loaded into the system memory 140. These software modules may include the processor nub 18, the OS nub 16, and/or any other critical software modules (e.g., ring-0 modules) loaded into the isolated area 70. Thus, the audit log 156 can act as a fingerprint that identifies information loaded into the platform (e.g., the ring-0 code controlling the isolated execution configuration and operation), and is used to attest or prove the state of the current isolated execution.

In another embodiment, both the protected memory 152 and unprotected memory (e.g., a memory array in the non-isolated area 80 of the system memory 140 of Figure 1C) may collectively provide a protected audit log 156. The audit log 156 is stored in the memory array while information concerning the state of the audit log 156 (e.g., a total hash value for the representative data within the audit log 156) is stored in the protected memory 152.

Referring still to Figure 1C, the non-volatile memory 160 stores non-volatile information. Typically, the non-volatile memory 160 is implemented in flash memory. The non-volatile memory 160 includes the processor nub 18 as described above. Additionally, the processor nub 18 may also provide application programming interface (API) abstractions to low-level security services provided by other hardware and may be distributed by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) or operating system vendor (OSV) via a boot disk.

The mass storage device 170 stores archive information such as code (e.g., processor nub 18), programs, files, data, applications (e.g., applications 42₁-42_N), applets (e.g., applets 46₁ to 46_M) and operating systems. The mass storage device 170 may

include a compact disk (CD) ROM 172, a hard drive 176, or any other magnetic or optic storage devices. The mass storage device 170 also provides a mechanism to read platform-readable media. When implemented in software, the elements of the present invention are stored in a processor readable medium. The "processor readable medium" may include any medium that can store or transfer information. Examples of the processor readable medium include an electronic circuit, a semiconductor memory device, a read only memory (ROM), a flash memory, an erasable programmable ROM (EPROM), a fiber optic medium, a radio frequency (RF) link, and any platform readable media such as a floppy diskette, a CD-ROM, an optical disk, a hard disk, etc.

In communication with the platform 100, I/O devices 175 include stationary or portable user input devices, each of which performs one or more I/O functions. Examples of a stationary user input device include a keyboard, a keypad, a mouse, a trackball, a touch pad, and a stylus. Examples of a portable user input device include a handset, beeper, hand-held (e.g., personal digital assistant) or any wireless device. The I/O devices 175 enable remote attestation of the platform 100 as described below.

The token link 185 provides an interface between the ICH 150 and a fixed token 180 (e.g., a motherboard token) and/or a token reader 190 in communication with a removable token 182 having characteristics similar to a smart card. In general, both types of tokens are devices that perform dedicated I/O functions. For embodiments shown in Figures 6 and 7, tokens 180 and/or 182 include keying material (e.g., unique cryptographic identifier such as a public/private key pair) and functionality to digitally sign the audit log (or a representation thereof) with the private key of the key pair. The token link interface 158 in the ICH 150 provides a logical coupling between the token link 185 and the ICH 150 and supports remote attestation for recovery of the contents of the audit log 156.

II. Generating and Utilizing a Protected Audit Log

Referring now to Figure 2, a flowchart of the illustrative operations of the platform to generate an embodiment of the protected audit log is shown. After power-on of the platform, segments of information are loaded into the system memory for

processing by a processor (block 200). Examples of these segments of information include the processor nub and the OS nub. Concurrent with the loading of the segments of information into the system memory, copies of each segment of the information undergo a cryptographic hash operation to produce a hash value of the segments. These hash values form an audit log stored in protected memory (blocks 205 and 210). In one embodiment, as shown in Figure 1C, the protected memory is implemented within the ICH. The memory is deemed "protected" when the contents of the memory are readable and non-modifiable as described above. As subsequent segments of information are selected for storage into the audit log, their hash values are appended to the audit log behind the previously computed hash values (block 215). It is contemplated that only hash values of selected nubs may be stored in the audit log.

III. Remote Attestation

A. Commencement of Remote Attestation

In one embodiment, remote attestation is initiated by issuing an attestation request. The attestation request can originate from a remote source or from an agent, local to the platform, which may or may not be acting as a proxy for the remote source. Normally, the attestation request comprises a primary query and/or one or more optional secondary queries. Each query causes the issuance of the attestation cycles, which are designed to retrieve contents of the audit log. At a minimum, the contents of the audit log may be used to verify the integrity of IsoX™ processor and the OS nub of the platform. The secondary query retrieves, in addition to the audit log, a hash value of a selected IsoX applet loaded by the platform in order to verify the integrity of the applet. The hash value of the applet is generated on the fly by the OS nub. This avoids the need to store each and every loaded applet in the audit log. For primary queries, the RAU creates a message that may include the audit log, a digital signature covering the audit log, and one or more digital certificates for the RAU keying material and returns the message to the requestor. For secondary queries, the RAU creates a message that may include the applet hash, the audit log, a digital signature covering the applet hash and audit log, and one or more digital certificates for the RAU keying material and returns the message to the requestor to retrieve different information cited above.

B. Processor Integrated RAU

Referring now to Figure 3, the RAU 300 is integrated into the processor 110. The processor 110 is executing local code. Upon detection of an attestation request, the processor 110 establishes a communication pathway with a component 310 responsible for storing the audit log 156. More specifically, in one embodiment, the local code executes a physical instruction in response to an attestation request. The physical instruction, when executed by the processor 110, causes the issuance of attestation cycles by the processor 110 for reading contents of the audit log 156.

For illustrative sake, the component 310 may be the ICH 150 of Figure 1C, although other components within the platform 100 may be used. The communications between the processor 110 and component 310 are through one or more links such as a first link 310 and a second link 320. These links 310 and 320 may be configured as dedicated links for handling attestation cycles or shared links (e.g., host link, PCI bus, etc.) enhanced to handle the attestation cycles. These attestation cycles signal the component 310 to accept reads of the audit log 156.

Upon receiving the audit log 156, the RAU 300 in the processor 110 produces a digital signature 330 by digitally signing the audit log 156 with the keying material 340 (e.g., a pre-stored private key). The audit log 156, digital signature 330, and possibly digital certificates from the RAU keying material and packetized and sent as a message by the RAU 300 to the requestor or to an area 350 accessible to the local code.

Of course, it is contemplated that if the audit log 156 is stored in unprotected memory, the ICH 150 may include a component (not shown) to verify that the contents of the audit log 156 have not been modified before releasing the audit log 156 to the processor 110. This may be accomplished by the component 310 generating a hash value of the audit log 156 recovered from unprotected memory and comparing the hash value to the total hash value stored in protected memory.

As an optional embodiment, the user may want to control when the keying material 340 is used. For example, the platform may issue a request message via a communications device 360 to a user opt-in device 380 over a protected communication

path. In one embodiment, the communications device 360 is coupled to the token bus 185 and is employed with a wireless receiver 365 and a wireless transmitter 370 (collectively referred to herein as a "wireless transceiver"). The wireless receiver and transmitter 365 and 370 are used to establish and maintain direct communications with the user opt-in device 380. Of course, the user opt-in device 380 may be coupled to communications device 360 via any link type.

Upon receipt of the request message, the communications device 360 issues a message to the user opt-in device 380 which enables the user to affirm his or her desire to release the keying material 340 for generation of the digital signature 330. Based on an input by the user or lack thereof (e.g., depression of a key associated with user opt-in device 380, inaction by the user, etc.), a response message is returned to the communications device 360, which routes the contents of the response message to the RAU 300 over a protected communication path. Upon receipt of the response message, the RAU 300 proceeds with the generation of the digital signature 330 and/or digital certificates for the RAU keying material and placement in the area 350 accessible to the local code if use of the keying material 340 is authorized by the user.

C. Chipset Integrated RAU

Referring now to Figure 4, the RAU 300 is integrated into a core logic device 400. As shown, the processor 110 is executing local code. Upon detection of an attestation request, the core logic device 400 establishes a communication pathway with a component 420 responsible for storing the audit log 156. More specifically, in one embodiment, the local code sends a message to core logic device 400 based on an attestation request. The message causes the core logic device 400 to issue attestation cycles for reading contents of the audit log 156.

For example, in response to the attestation request, the core logic device 400 routes the attestation cycles to the component 420 via link 430 to allow contents of the stored audit log 156 to be read. Link 430 may be dedicated to support remote attestation or support multiple functions inclusive of attestation cycles generated by the core logic device 400. Upon receiving the contents of the stored audit log 156, the core logic

device 400 that contains the RAU 300 generates a digital signature 330 for the audit log 156 (as described above) and writes the digital signature 330 into an area accessible to the local code.

However, as shown in Figure 5, if the core logic device 400 also contains the audit log 156, internal signals 450 within the core logic device 400 are used to allow the RAU 300 to access the audit log 156. Again, upon receiving the contents of the audit log 156, the RAU 300 of the core logic device 400 generates the digital signature 330 of the audit log and possibly one or more digital certificates for the RAU keying material (not shown). This information is provided as a message to the requestor or written into the area accessible to the local code.

As an optional embodiment, the user may want to control when the keying material 340 is used. For example, the platform may issue a request message 470 via a communications device 460 to a user opt-in device 490 over a protected communication path. In one embodiment, the communications device 460 is coupled to the token bus 185 and is employed with a wireless transceiver 465 in order to establish and maintain direct communications with the user opt-in device 490.

In response to receiving the request message 470, the communications device 460 issues a message to the user opt-in device 490, which solicits the user to affirm his or her desire to release the keying material 340 for generation of the digital signature 330. Based on an input by the user or lack thereof (e.g., depression of a key associated with the user opt-in device 490, inaction by the user, etc.), a response message 480 is returned to the communications device 460, which routes the contents of the response message 480 to the RAU 300 of the core logic device 400 over a protected communication path. Upon receipt of the response message 480, the RAU 300 proceeds with the generation of the digital signature 330 and possibly digital certificates as described above and placement in the area accessible to the local code if use of the keying material 340 is authorized by the user.

D. Fixed Token Integrated RAU

Referring now to Figure 6, if the RAU 300 is integrated in the fixed token 180, the fixed token 180 communicates with a component (e.g., ICH 150) holding the audit log 156 over the token link 185. The functionality of token link 185 may be enhanced to support attestation cycles that are only generated by the fixed token 180 when remote attestation is being requested. These attestation cycles are routed to the ICH 150 to request acceptance of reads to the audit log 156. Upon receiving the contents of the audit log 156, the RAU 300 implemented in the fixed token 180 generates a digital signature 330 by digitally signing the audit log 156 with keying material 340 stored in the RAU 300. Thereafter, the RAU 300 writes the digital signature 330 and possibly digital certificates for keying material 340 to the requestor or into an area accessible to the local code.

As an optional embodiment, the user may want to control when the keying material 610 stored in the RAU 300 is used. For example, the user may be prompted to affirm his or her desire to release the keying material 340 for generation of the digital signature 330. The prompt may be accomplished, for example, through transmission of a message 620 via a wireless transceiver 630 situated in the token 180. Affirmation of a desire to release the keying material 340 may be made by either (1) transmitting a return message 640 from a user opt-in device to the token 180 as shown or (2) entering access information via a user opt-in device (not shown) physically connected to the token 180, for example. Thereafter, the RAU 300 proceeds with the generation of the digital signature 330 and/or digital certificate(s) for the keying material 340. Then, this information along with the audit log 156 are sent to the requestor or placed in the area accessible to the local code if use of the keying material 340 has been authorized by the user. Of course, opt-in messages 620 and 640 may be routed through the I/O device 175 provided the messages are protected.

E. Removable Token Integrated RAU

Referring now to Figure 7, if the RAU 300 is integrated in the removable token 182, the removable token 182 communicates with a component (e.g., ICH 150) holding

the audit log 156 over the token link 185. The functionality of token link 185 may be enhanced to support attestation cycles that are only generated by the token reader upon insertion or connection (i.e., wireless token) of removable token 182 when remote attestation is being requested. These attestation cycles are generated by the token reader 190 to the hardware storing the audit log 156 (e.g., ICH 150) to request acceptance of reads to the audit log 156. Upon receiving the contents of the audit log 156, the RAU 300 implemented in the removable token 182 generates the digital signature 330 by digitally signing the audit log 156 with keying material 340 stored in the RAU 300. Thereafter, the RAU 300 writes the digital signature 330 and/or digital certificate(s) for the keying material 340 into an area accessible to the local code.

As an optional embodiment, the user may want to control when the keying material 340 stored in the RAU 300 is used. For example, the user may be prompted to affirm his or her desire to release the keying material 340 for generation of the digital signature 330. The prompt may be accomplished, for example, through transmission of a message 720 via a wireless transceiver 730 situated in the token 182. Affirmation of a desire to release the keying material 340 may be made by either (1) transmitting a return message 740 from a user opt-in device (not shown) to the token 182 as shown or (2) entering access information via a user opt-in device physically connected to the token 182 (not shown) for example. Thereafter, the RAU 300 proceeds with the generation of the digital signature 330 and/or digital certificates for the keying material 340, routing through the token reader 190 and placement in the area accessible to the local code if use of the keying material 340 has been authorized by the user. Of course, opt-in messages 620 and 640 may be routed through the I/O device 175 provided the messages are protected.

While this invention has been described with reference to illustrative embodiments, this description is not intended to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the illustrative embodiments, as well as other embodiments of the invention, which are apparent to persons skilled in the art to which the invention pertains are deemed to lie within the spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A platform comprising:
a processor including a remote attestation unit, the processor executing in one of a normal execution mode and an isolated execution mode;
a chipset to store an audit log; and
a link coupled to the processor and the chipset, the link to support predetermined bus cycles for the remote attestation unit to read contents of the audit log when a remote attestation request has been detected.
2. The platform of claim 1, wherein the remote attestation unit of the processor includes keying material.
3. The platform of claim 2, wherein the remote attestation unit of the processor includes a digital signature unit to digitally sign the audit log with the keying material.
4. The platform of claim 3, wherein the keying material within the remote attestation unit includes a private key.
5. The platform of claim 3, wherein the chipset includes:
a system memory including an isolated area and a non-isolated area;
a memory control hub coupled to system memory and the processor via a first link partially forming the link; and
an input/output control hub coupled to the memory control hub via a second link partially forming the link, the input/output control hub including single-write, multiple-read memory to store the audit log.

6. The platform of claim 5 further comprising a communications device coupled to the input/output control hub, the communications device enables communications with a user opt-in device.
7. The platform of claim 6, wherein the communications device includes a wireless transmitter and a wireless receiver to communicate with the user opt-in device.
8. The platform of claim 6, wherein the user opt-in device enables a user to control a stage of operation of the remote attestation by preventing the creation of the digital signature.
9. The platform of claim 2, wherein the remote attestation request includes a primary query.
10. The platform of claim 9, wherein the remote attestation unit returns a message to a requestor in response to the primary query, the message includes the audit log and at least a digital signature being the audit log digitally signed with the keying material.
11. The platform of claim 10, wherein the message further includes a digital certificate for the keying material.
12. The platform of claim 9, wherein the remote attestation request includes a secondary query.
13. The platform of claim 12, wherein the remote attestation unit returns a message to a requestor in response to the secondary query, the message includes a hash value of a selected applet, the audit log and a digital signature including the hash value and the audit log.

14. The platform of claim 13, wherein the message further includes a digital certificate for the keying material.

15. A platform comprising:
a component to contain an audit log; and
a device including a remote attestation unit to retrieve the audit log and digitally sign the audit log with keying material stored in the remote attestation unit, the audit log including representative data of software modules loaded within the platform after power-on.

16. The platform of claim 15 further comprising a processor to detect a remote attestation request and to issue cycles to the component to allow the device to access the audit log.

17. The platform of claim 15, wherein the device is a chipset.

18. The platform of claim 16 further comprising:
a chipset coupled to processor, the chipset including the component and a token link interface; and
a token link coupled to the chipset.

19. The platform of claim 15, wherein the device is a fixed token coupled to the token link.

20. The platform of claim 19, further comprising a user opt-in device in communication with the fixed token, the user opt-in device enables a user to cease operations of the remote attestation unit.

21. The platform of claim 18 further comprising a token reader coupled to the token link.

22. The platform of claim 21, wherein the device is a removable token in communication with the token reader.

23. The platform of claim 22, further comprising a user opt-in device in communication with the removable token, the user opt-in device enables a user to cease operations of the remote attestation unit.

24. A method comprising:
storing an audit log within protected memory of a platform, the audit log being a listing of data representing each of a plurality of IsoX software modules loaded into the platform;
retrieving the audit log from the protected memory in response to receiving a remote attestation request from a remotely located platform; and
digitally signing the audit log to produce a digital signature before transfer to the remotely located platform.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the data representative of each of the plurality of software modules is a cryptographic hash value.

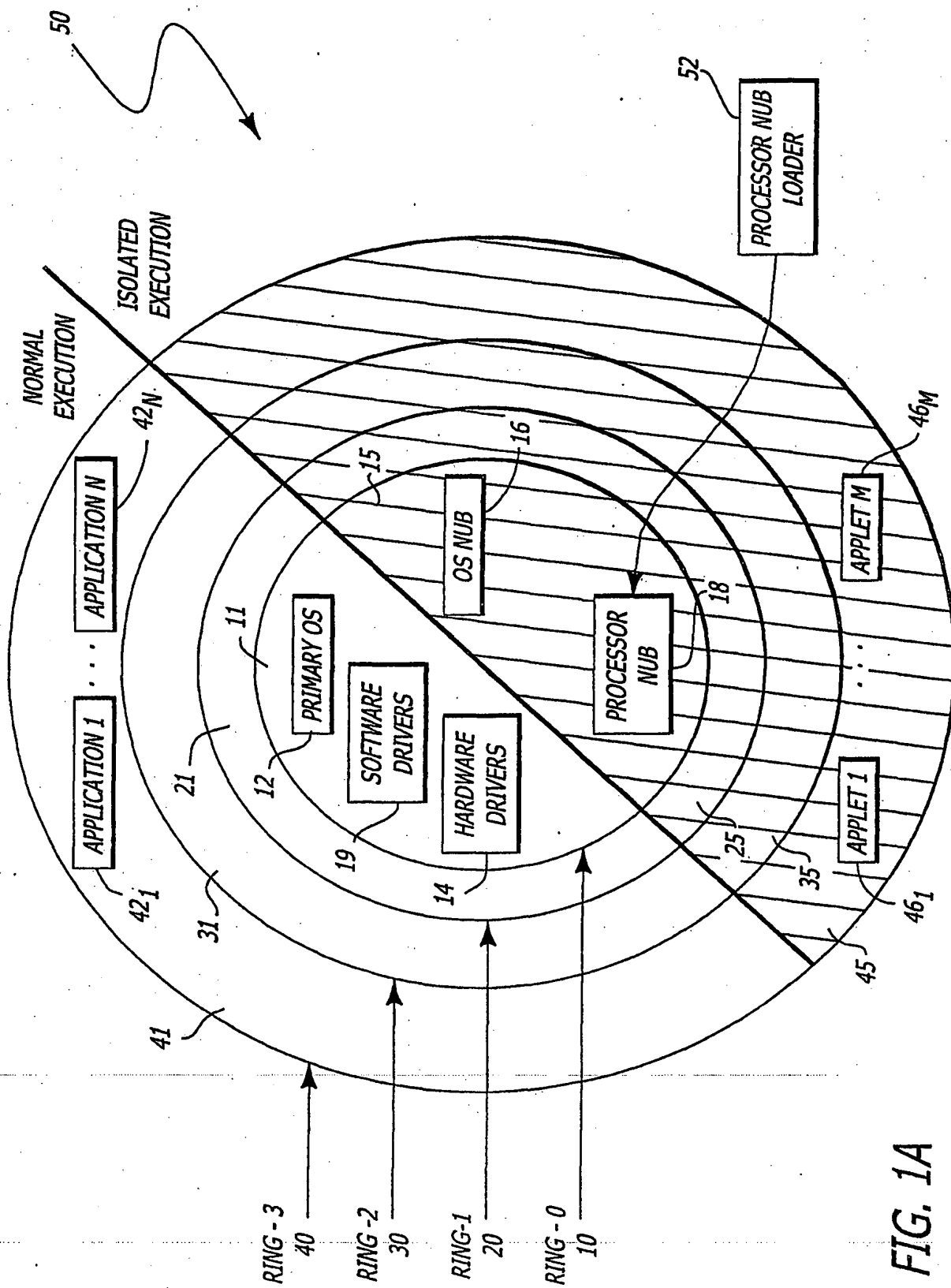


FIG. 1A

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FIG. 1B

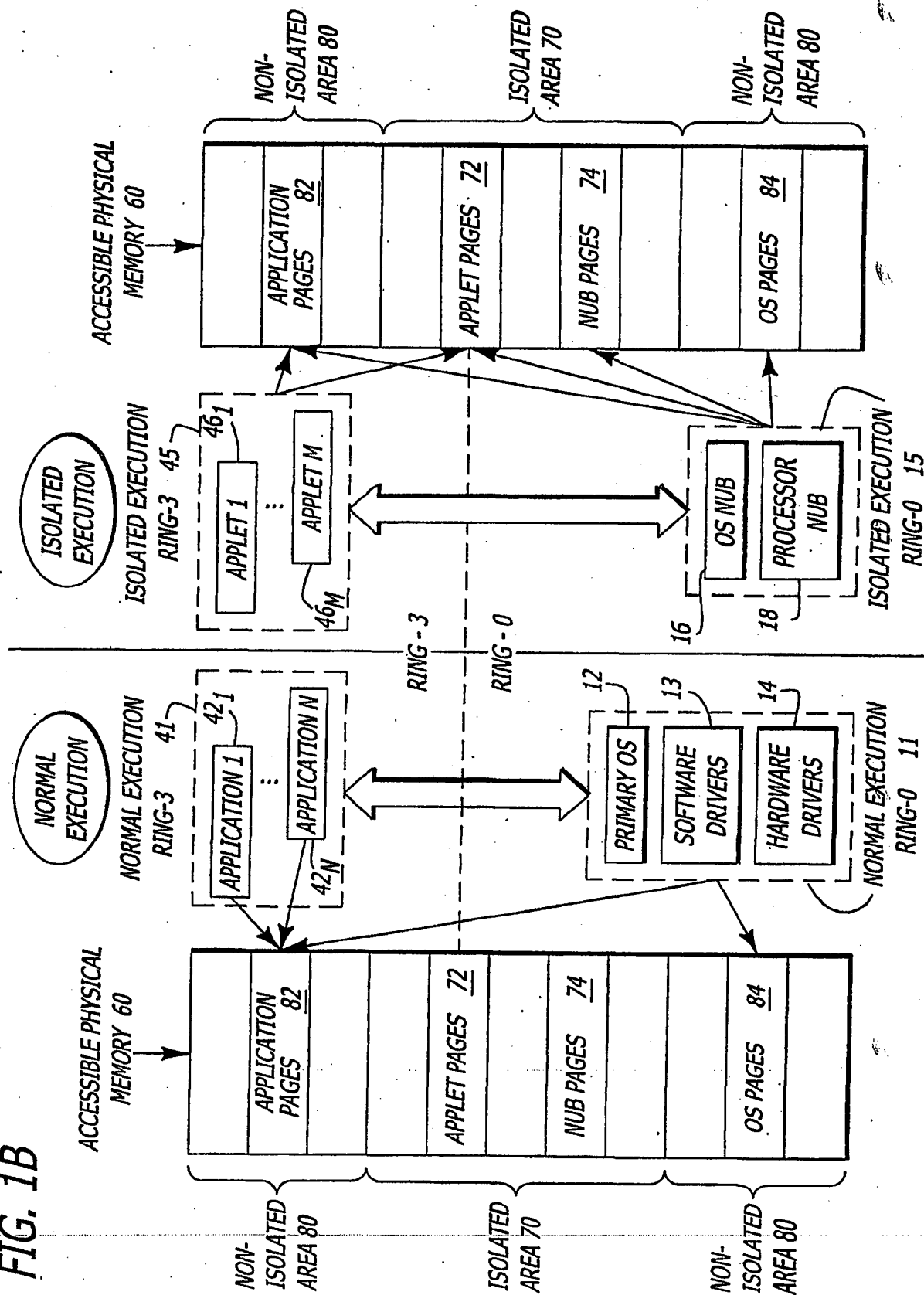
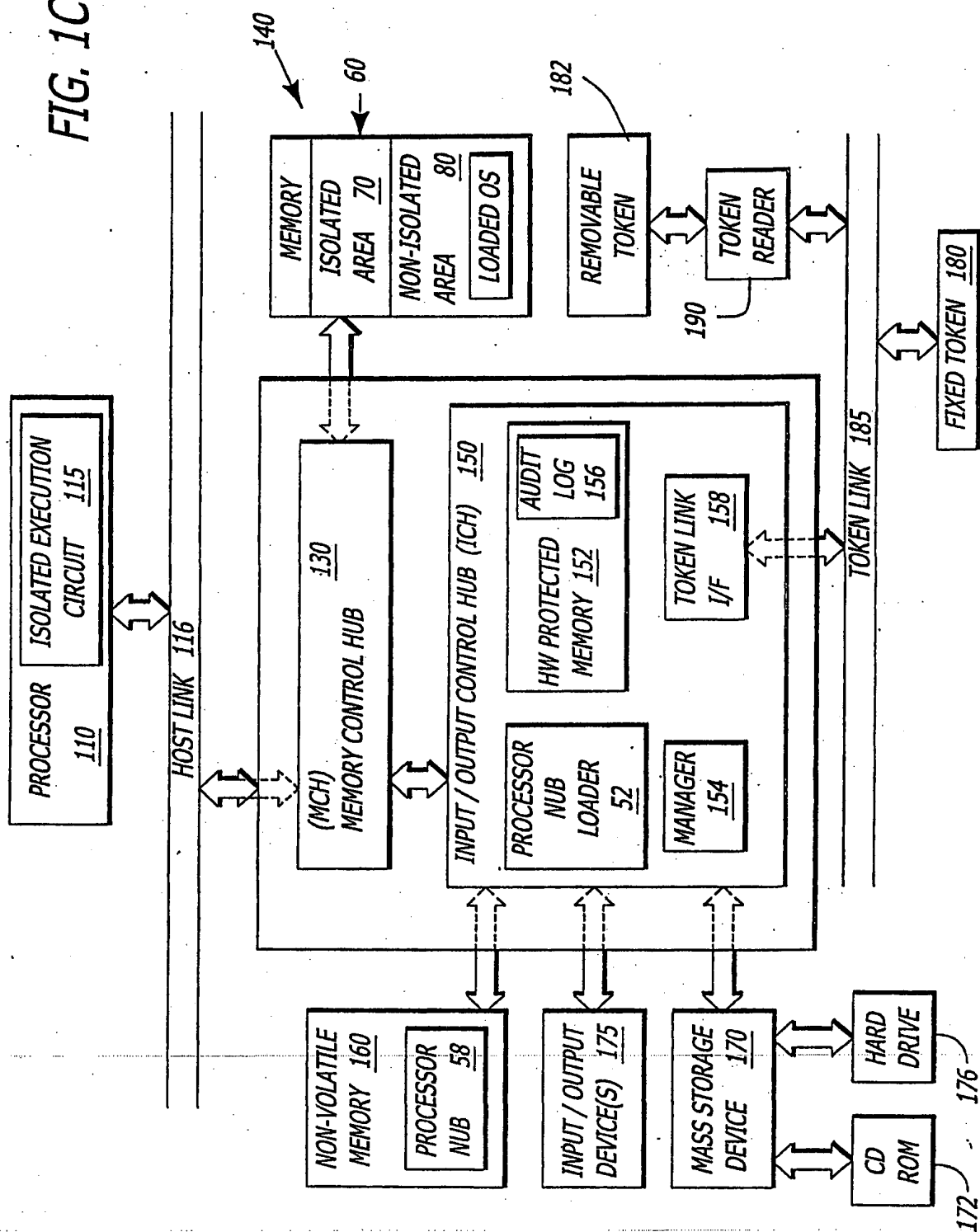


FIG. 1C



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FIG. 2

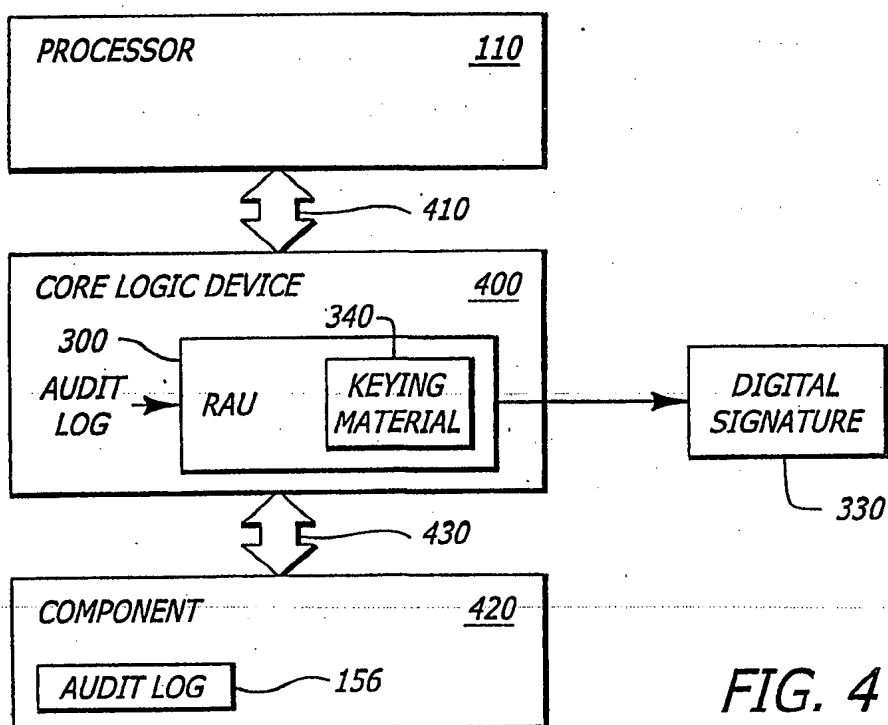
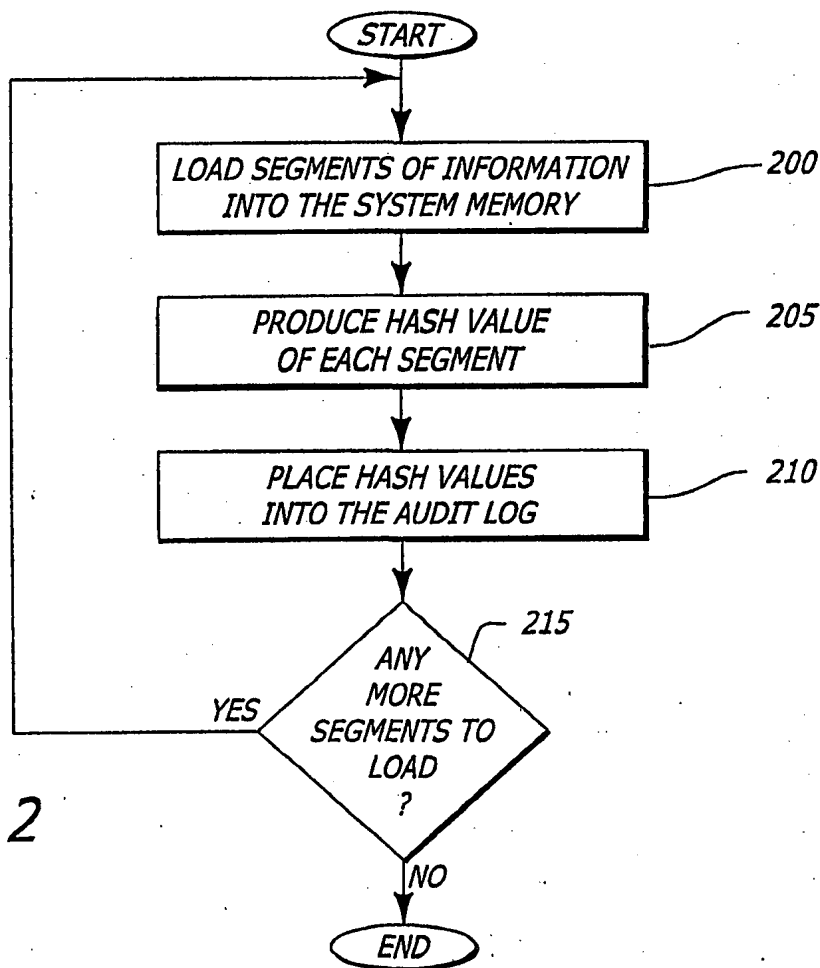
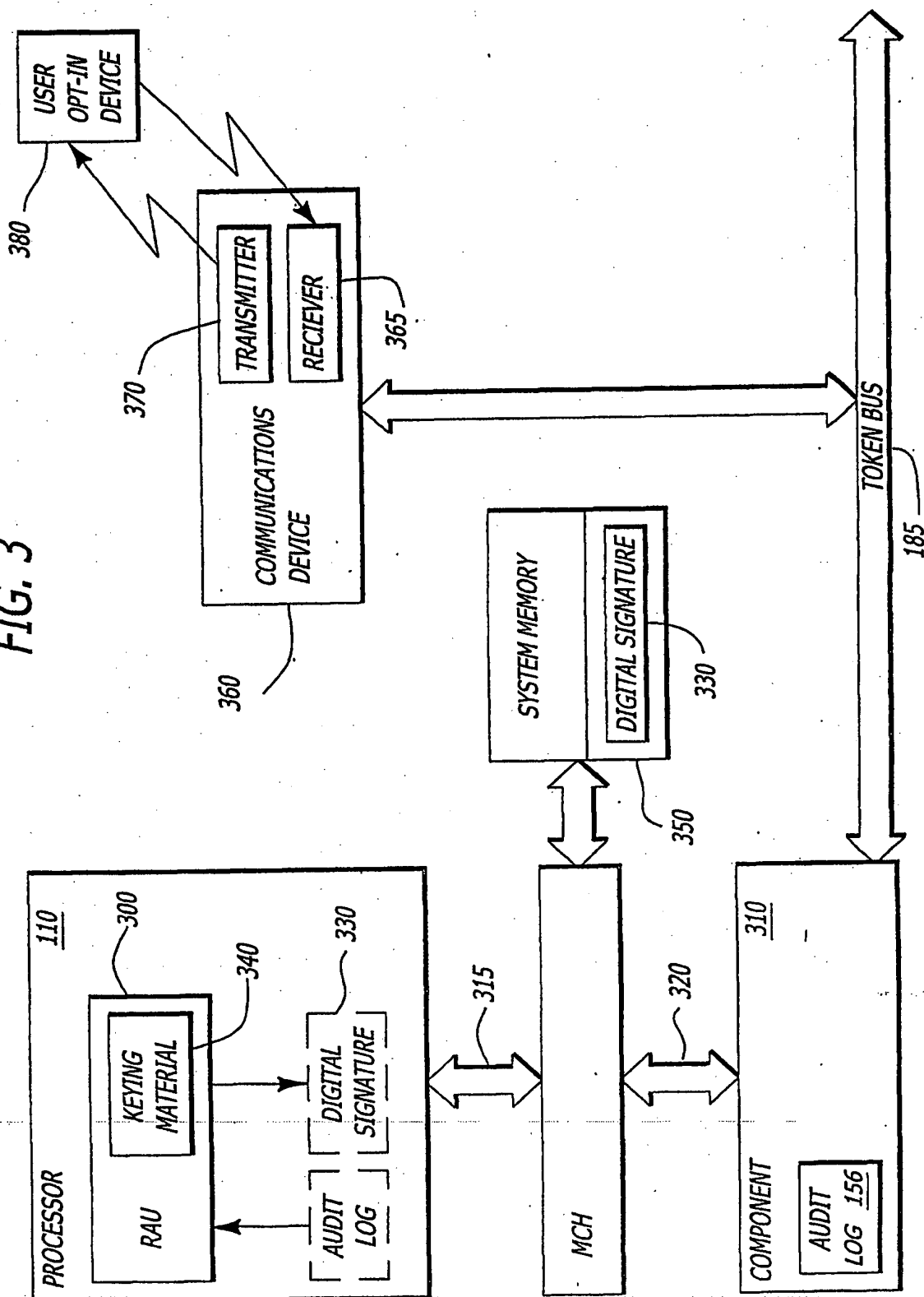


FIG. 4

FIG. 3



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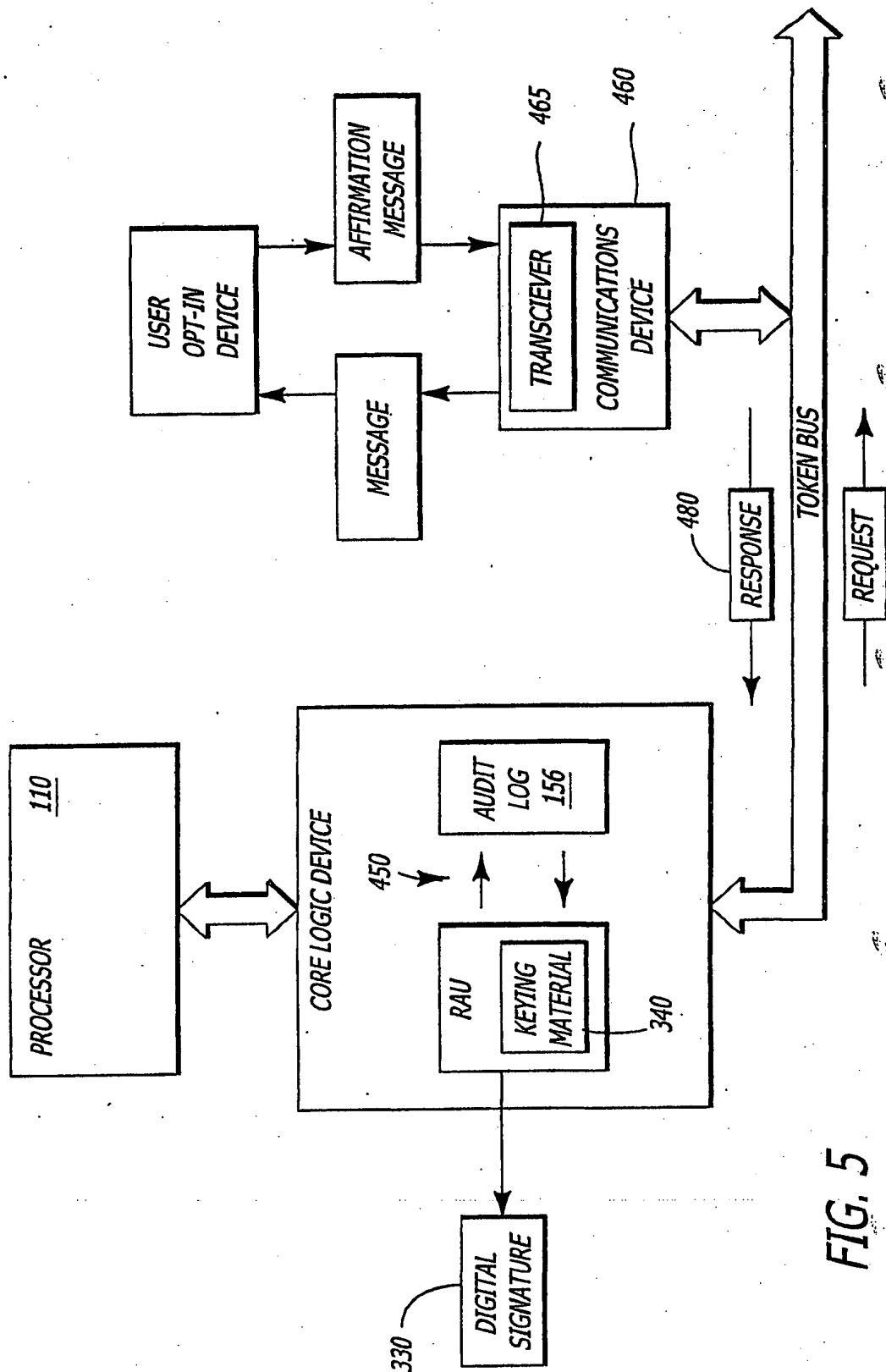


FIG. 5

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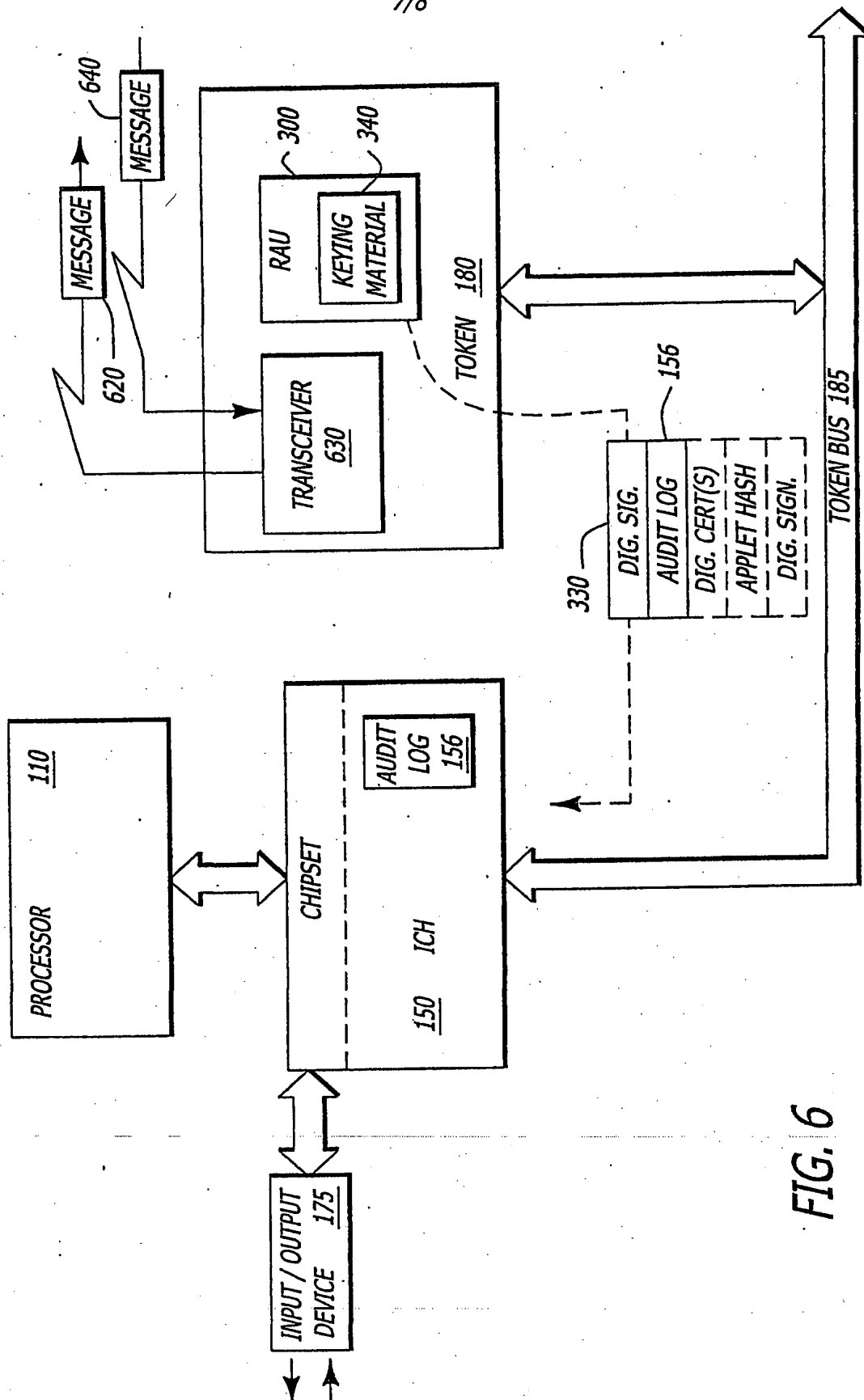


FIG. 6

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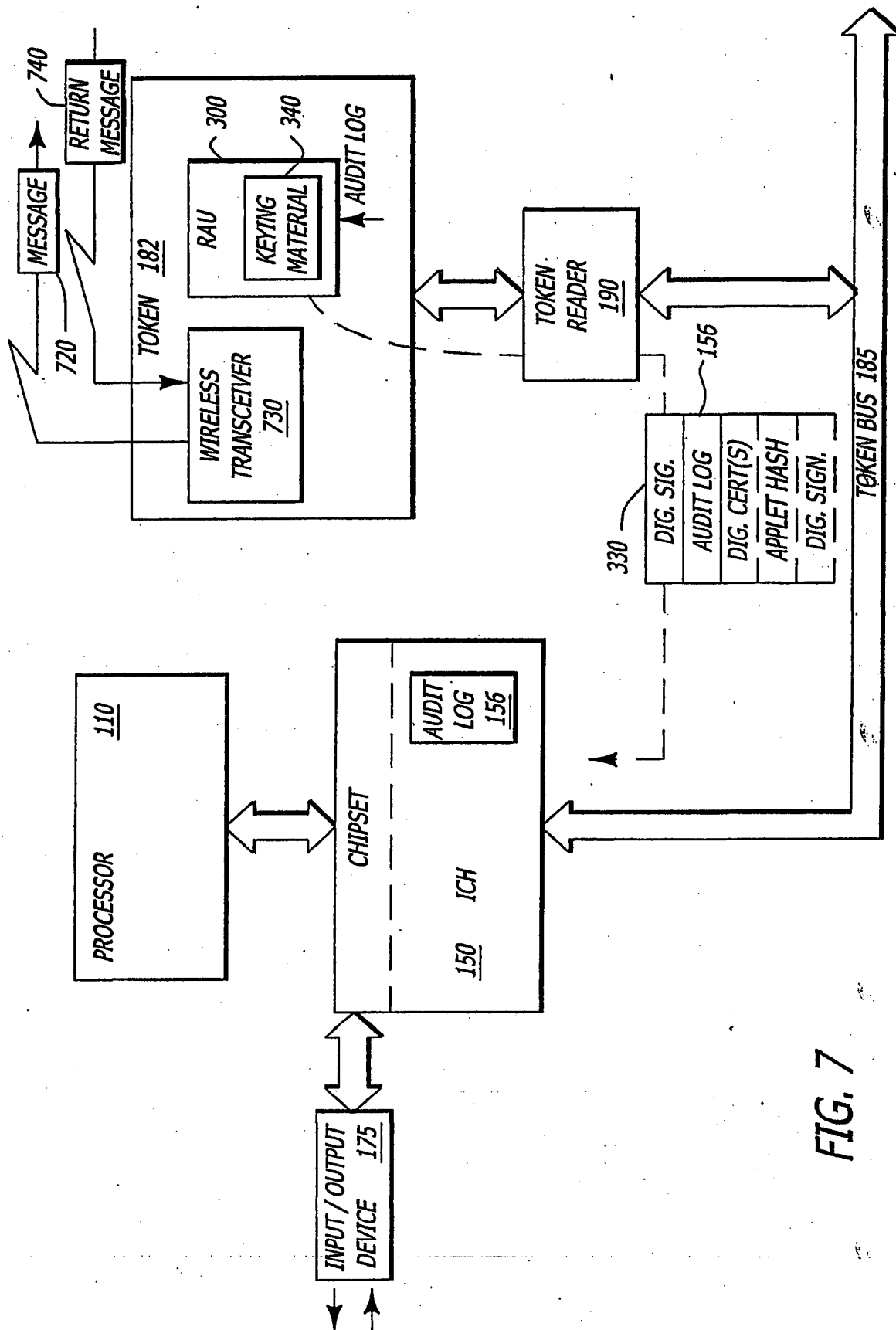


FIG. 7